



April 24, 2006

Senator John Ensign
Senate Room 356
Washington, D.C. 20510-2805

Dear Senator Ensign:

I am writing in support of "Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act." We support those provisions that call for national video franchising and allow for market driven investment for the infrastructure build out. We think this bill is important because it will allow for greater consumer choice. The biggest single benefit of having a choice is that consumers will be able to save money. Competition always helps consumers and it has been a long time coming in the cable TV business.

This legislation also impacts another issue of importance to the minority community; the lack of diversified programming in television today. Although America is still a "melting pot" of cultures and heritages, television programming all too often fails to reflect America's diversity. Independent and minority networks are all but locked out of existing video distribution systems. Consumers – especially minority communities – deserve more choice in television and entertainment services.

The Video Access Alliance was created to address this growing concern that independent emerging and minority networks, programmers and other content providers do not have adequate means of distributing their products to consumers. Our organization is dedicated to promoting policies that encourage rapid deployment of innovative new video platforms and serving as an advocacy and advisory group for independent, emerging and minority networks, content providers, programmers, entertainers and other industry participants. By creating an environment that allows for multiple video distribution platforms, there will be more opportunities for more diverse programming.

Thank you for introducing these provisions as part of your legislation. Along with other coalition members of the Video Access Alliance, I look forward to meeting with you and other members of the Senate in the coming weeks to discuss this vital issue.

In the meantime, please feel free to call me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Julia Johnson", is written over the typed name and title.

Julia Johnson
Chairperson